

What is Claimed is:

1. A device for holding substances during drying comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the opening; and a second filter member disposed in the opening juxtaposedly to the first filter member.

5 2. The device of Claim 1 wherein said first filter member comprises at least one aperture sized to preclude the passing of bacteria there through.

10 3. The device of Claim 2 wherein said first filter member comprises a plurality of apertures having an average aperture opening ranging from about 0.10 um to about 0.65 um.

4. The device of Claim 1 additionally comprising a retainer ring engaged to the flask for retaining the first and second filter members in the opening.

15 5. The device of Claim 1 wherein said first filter member has a higher flexibility than the second filter member.

6. The device of Claim 1 wherein said structure of said flask additionally comprises a second opening.

20 7. The device of Claim 6 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

8. The device of Claim 1 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

25 9. A freeze-drying assembly comprising a freeze-drying apparatus; and a device disposed in said apparatus for holding substances during freeze-drying, said device comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening, a first filter member disposed in the opening, and a second filter member disposed in the opening juxtaposedly to the first filter member.

10. A method for processing a substance under sterile conditions comprising disposing a substance in a flask; positioning the flask in a drying apparatus; and passing a drying medium through a first filter member and through a second filter member juxtaposed to the first filter member for drying the substance.

25 11. The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising re-hydrating the dried substance.

30 12. The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising moving the second filter member against the first filter member.

13. The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising contacting the substance with a temperature-conductive member for monitoring the temperature of the substance.

14. The method of Claim 13 additionally comprising coupling a thermocouple to the temperature-conductive member.

5 15. The method of Claim 12 wherein said moving of the second filter member
comprises flexing the second filter.

16. The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising exposing the flask to water vapor.

17. The method of Claim 10 wherein said flask comprises a transparent structure.

18. The method of Claim 17 additionally comprising viewing the substance through the transparent structure.